

Mendocino County Russian River Flood Control
Water Conservation Improvement District

STAFF REPORT

Agenda Item 9: Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA)

Monday, December 8, 2025

The Strategic Plan relevant priority is **Advocacy** through influence, education, funding, regulation, and legislation in support of equitable water resource stewardship.

Background:

ACWA is the largest coalition of public water agencies in California, drawing strength from the membership. The approximately 470 public agency members collectively are responsible for 90% of the water delivered to cities, farms and businesses in California. ACWA is a lobbyist agency that addresses policy and legislative interests of the diverse array of members who are relied upon to drive ACWA's agenda through their organizational leadership, technical and geographical expertise, and grassroots activism and outreach. ACWA is designed for members to benefit from the power of a united voice on policy and legislative matters.

The District has been a member of the Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA) since approximately 2012. The current and previous General Managers have attended regional and statewide events, meetings, and conferences. GM Salomone has served on the Regional Board and on the Statewide ACWA Board in 2024 and 2025.

Dues are based on the member agency's Operating & Maintenance (O&M) expenses. ACWA's Memo for 2026 dues and the 2026 Agency Member Dues Schedule are **attached**.

Dues for 2025 were calculated on O&M of \$278,887.

Dues for 2026 were calculated on O&M of \$401,078.

Below is a table of the District's membership past paid dues:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Amount</u>
2012	\$ (970.00)
2015	\$ (324.38)
2016	\$ (1,395.00)
2017	\$ (2,930.00)
2018	\$ (3,505.00)
2019	\$ (3,610.00)
2020	\$ (4,141.00)
2021	\$ (4,140.00)
2022	\$ (4,140.00)
2023	\$ (4,140.00)
2024	\$ (4,140.00)
2025	\$ (4,160.00)

2026 dues are calculated to be \$4,730.

(Continued...)

Discussion

The Board is invited to consider the District's value in ACWA membership. The expected increase in District O&M, particularly through water supply security projects like the trans basin diversion and increasing storage capacity at lake Mendocino, will generate an increase the annual membership dues. Obtaining lobbyist services through membership in the Mendocino County Inland Water & Power Commission, and subsequently the Eel Russian Project Authority, may be a more focused and deliberate use of funds.

The 2026 agency payment is due January 31, 2026 if continuing with ACWA membership.

Recommended Actions:

- Provide direction to Staff.

Attachments:

- ACWA 2026 Dues memo and invoice
- ACWA 2025 Agency Member Dues Schedule

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Prepared and submitted to the Board of Trustees by: *Elizabeth Salomone, General Manager*

MEMORANDUM

TO: ACWA Public Water Agency Members

FROM: Marwan Khalifa, Interim Executive Director

DATE: September 30, 2025

SUBJECT: ACWA's 2026 Membership Dues

Thank you for your continued membership in ACWA, the nation's largest coalition of public water agencies. Member agencies should feel a sense of pride for your role in making the Association the leading voice on California's water issues. Staff accomplished a number of legislative and regulatory successes this Legislative session on behalf of your agency. We also continue to be a vital source for accurate and relevant industry information, educational resources and networking opportunities.

I am happy to report that ACWA is in a healthy financial position, and projections indicate continued financial growth for the organization. For this reason, **the ACWA Board reduced the previously approved 2026 dues increase from 2.5% to 1%.**

The Association's five-year budget projection is aligned with ACWA's new Strategic Plan, ensuring the organization supports its strategic obligations in both the short and long term. The 2026 budget includes, in part, funding to enhance the Association's value for members, including financial support for an advocacy campaign should we need one, a revamped website, increased investment in the professional development of ACWA's talented staff; and continued implementation of the Association's five-year Strategic Plan. This Strategic Plan empowers the work of the Association to deliver results for our membership on issues that are critical to the future of local water management in California.

To view ACWA's full 2026 dues schedule, please visit acwa.com/about/membership/join-acwa-as-a-public-water-agency.

Value of Membership

We value your participation in ACWA and thank you for your membership. ACWA's voice and influence is enhanced with each and every member. Your investment in ACWA allows us to provide high-quality benefits and services to our membership such as:

- A strong, united voice on behalf of California water agencies in Sacramento and Washington D.C. on key state and federal legislative and regulatory issues of greatest concern to our members.

- Award-winning communications to support and advance the Association's legislative, regulatory and policy agendas by reaching key audiences, such as the Legislature, the media and the public; and by helping water agencies with outreach at the local level.
- Two premiere annual conferences, numerous topic-specific workshops, regional events, webinars and other professional development programs like Executive Edge to help meet member needs.

As an ACWA member, each of your employees and elected board members are also eligible to take advantage of:

- Participation in ACWA's advocacy Outreach Program, a vital tool for members to engage on key legislative and regulatory efforts.
- Exclusive cost-saving opportunities through ACWA JPIA insurance for liability, property workers compensation and employee benefits programs.
- Discounted registration for conferences, webinars and other events.
- Member-only information and resources posted on ACWA's website, including annual "Summary of Legislation," "Summary of Appellate Cases," communications toolkits and more.
- Opportunities to shape water policy by serving on ACWA committees and engaging locally through ACWA's 10 Regions.
- Access to ACWA's Preferred Provider Program, which offers a variety of value-added programs and services competitively solicited on your behalf by ACWA with pricing and contract terms most beneficial and convenient to our membership.

For more information on these services, as well as all of the benefits of continued ACWA membership, please visit acwa.com/about/membership/join-acwa-as-a-public-water-agency.

Thank you for your continued membership at ACWA. We look forward to sharing new and exciting developments with you in 2026 under the leadership of a new President, Vice President, and Executive Director. Your participation and engagement are vital to the work ACWA does on behalf of California water.

If you have questions about your ACWA membership, please contact ACWA's Member Services Manager Katie Dahl at (916) 669-2439 or via email at katied@acwa.com.

If you have any questions related to your agency's dues calculation, please contact ACWA's Accountant Steven Carr at (916) 669-2443 or steven@acwa.com.

Note: ACWA's schedule of membership dues is based on the operations and maintenance (O&M) expenses of each individual member agency, which can change each year. If there was an increase or decrease in your agency's O&M expenses, the actual dollar increase associated with your agency's membership dues may vary based on that change. If you received a blank dues calculation worksheet with your invoice, it means we did not receive your 2024 fiscal year-end financials. Financial information can be sent to steven@acwa.com for an accurate dues calculation.



Bringing
Water
Together

Date: September 30, 2025

Mendocino County Russian River Flood Control & Water Conservation Improvement District

PO Box 2104

Ukiah, CA 95482

2026 Annual Agency Dues	\$4,730.00
Total Amount Due	<hr/> \$4,730.00

Thank you for your continued support with ACWA. Please remit payment by **January 31, 2026**.

ACH Payment Information: Five Star Bank
Routing #: 121143037
Checking Acct #: 003533972

*****MEMBERSHIP DUES*****MEMBERSHIP DUES*****MEMBERSHIP DUES*****

SACRAMENTO 980 9th Street, Suite 1000, Sacramento, CA 95814 • (916) 441-4545
WASHINGTON, D.C. 400 North Capitol Street NW, Suite 357, Washington, DC 20001 • (202) 434-4760

www.acwa.com

Association of California Water Agencies
2026 Member Dues Calculation

Date: September 30, 2025

Name: Mendocino County Russian River Flood Control & Water Conservation Improvement District

(1) Operating Expenses \$429,508.00

(2) All Other Expenses

(3) Total Expenses **\$429,508.00**

<<< LESS >>>

(4) Purchased Power

(5) Water Purchases

(6) Groundwater Replenishment

(7) Depreciation \$28,430.00

(8) Fixed Assets

(9) Total Adjusted Expenses **\$401,078.00**

<<< LESS >>>

(10) Pumping

(11) Total Expenses Adjusted For Pumping **\$401,078.00**

(12) Line 11 times 2 \$802,156.00

(13) Dues O&M (lessor of line 9 or 12) **\$401,078.00**

DUES AMOUNT **\$4,730.00**

*** THIS IS NOT A BILL – PLEASE DO NOT PAY FROM THIS WORKSHEET ***

The dues formula shall be based on adjusted operation and maintenance expense for the following activities of a district:

- water;
- waste water;
- electric;
- land reclamation and levee maintenance;
- flood control and water conservation; and
- drainage and drainage maintenance.

2026 ACWA dues are based on the 2023-2024 fiscal year. Members joining after the beginning of the calendar year shall have their dues pro-rated for the remainder of the year. Members joining after October 1 will have their dues pro-rated for the current year and will be billed concurrently for the following year's dues.

NET O & M (2023-24 FY)	2026 DUES
\$1	\$850
\$42,501	2% max*
\$158,251	\$3,210
\$200,001	\$3,690
\$300,001	\$4,200
\$400,001	\$4,730
\$500,001	\$5,260
\$600,001	\$5,785
\$700,001	\$6,325
\$800,001	\$6,820
\$900,001	\$7,345
\$1,000,001	\$8,035
\$1,100,001	\$8,570
\$1,200,001	\$9,120
\$1,300,001	\$9,655
\$1,400,001	\$10,175
\$1,500,001	\$11,010
\$2,000,000	\$12,355
\$2,500,001	\$13,465
\$3,000,001	\$14,600
\$3,500,001	\$15,725
\$4,000,001	\$16,830
\$4,500,001	\$17,960
\$5,000,001	\$19,075
\$5,500,001	\$20,200

NET O & M (2023-24 FY)	2026 DUES
\$6,000,001	\$21,320
\$7,000,001	\$22,430
\$8,000,001	\$23,580
\$9,000,001	\$24,685
\$10,000,001	\$26,290
\$15,000,001	\$27,420
\$20,000,001	\$28,570
\$25,000,001	\$29,720
\$30,000,001	\$30,845
\$35,000,001	\$31,990
\$40,000,001	\$34,050
\$50,000,001	\$35,230
\$60,000,001	\$37,560
\$70,000,001	\$39,935
\$80,000,001	\$42,265
\$90,000,001	\$44,610
\$100,000,001	\$46,965
\$150,000,001	\$49,310
\$200,000,001	\$51,650
\$250,000,001	\$54,015
\$300,000,001	\$56,355
\$350,000,001	\$58,710
\$400,000,001	\$61,050
\$500,000,001	\$65,740

*Subject to a 2% max of O&M